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Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development

Volume 2, Issue 1

JANUARY, 2000

Let's Talk Agriculture

4709 – 44 Avenue, Provincial Building, STONY PLAIN AB T7Z 1N4
Phone: (780) 963-6101 / Fax: (780) 963-4709

Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

MARKETING YOUR AGRI-TOURISM VENTURE

Whether you're a market gardener, operate a country vacation, or offer farm tours, you'll want to attend this workshop. Accessing the tourism market is a whole new approach for us in the agriculture industry. Come and learn new marketing techniques, pick up tips from the pros, and network with others in the agri-tourism industry:

WHEN: January 20, 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
WHERE: Fort Edmonton Park
REGISTRATION: $40/person or $55/couple
Pre-registration is necessary, please call 963-6101

*If you are interested in setting up accomodations on your farm (B&B, Country Vacations, Cabins, etc), watch for more details on the following workshop set for February 23, in Stony Plain – **"Setting Up Accomodations on the Farm".**

2000 BERRY PRODUCTION SCHOOL

Considering getting into the commercial production of strawberries, raspberries or saskatoons? This 2-day workshop is a must.

WHEN: January 25 – 26,
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
WHERE: Sandman Inn, Edmonton
REGISTRATION: Call our Crop Diversification Centre South at : 362-1309 (toll free Via 310 – 0000) for more information.

ALTERNATIVE LIVESTOCK SYMPOSIUM

Are you looking to diversify into bison, elk, deer or aquaculture (fish farming)? You'll definitely want to attend this symposium and hear from leading industry and government experts.

WHEN: January 26, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
WHERE: Westlock & District Community Hall
REGISTRATION: Westlock Alberta Agriculture Office at 349-4465
(toll free via 310-0000) by January 24, 2000.

*If it's just aquaculture you're interest in, there is a workshop on **"Raising Fish In Your Pond or Dugout"** on January 25 in Stony Plain at 6:30 p.m. Call us at 963-6101 for more information.

AGRI-TOURISM DATABASE

This winter Alberta Agriculture, Food & Rural Development will be developing a database of what Alberta has to offer in the way of **Agri-Tourism ventures.** This includes things like: country or farm vacations: farm Festivals, events, and activities; farm tours; and farm direct marketed agricultural, food and horticultural products.

We will be calling agri-tourism business operators from across the province, and asking them if they would like to be listed on the database that will be put up on the Alberta Agriculture's **Ropin'The Web** website. The database will allow business operators to search out other operators to partner and market within their geographic areas.

It will also allow tour companies to see what's available for agricultural tours. As well, the information will be used by Travel Alberta for their 1-800 operators and Visitor Information Centres.

Give Sharon Homeniuk a call in the Stony Plain Office at (780) 963-6101 (toll free via -310-0000) to make sure you're included in the **Agri-Tourism Database.**

Super Canola Meeting : Feb. 9, 2000 – Morinville: Contact: 939-4351
Super Canola Meeting : Feb. 20, 2000 – Wetaskiwin: Contact: 361-1240
Super Cereals Meeting: Feb. 16, 2000 – Leduc: Contact: 986-8985
Feb. 17,2000 – Westlock: Contact: 349-4465
Gateway Research Organization Annual Mtg: Feb. 10 Contact: 349-4546
West Central Forage Association Meeting : January 27 – Evansburg: Contact: (780) 727-3673

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AGRICULTURAL FINANCIAL SERVICES CORPORATION

AFSC offers many financial products for any stage of your farm business.
Ask us about our farm lending services:

- Beginning Farmer Loans
- Vendor Mortgage Plan
- Developing Farmer Loans
- Disaster Assistance/Crop Loss Loans
- Alberta Farm Development Loans
- Specific guarantees
- Farm Income Disaster Program

For more information please contact:
Orest Malysh or Bill Tchir in Stony Plain. Phone: (780) 963-6101.

Other services: AFSC Commercial - innovative financing for businesses in the agrifood and value-added sector. Phone: (780) 415-1216

You
Ropin' the Web at:
www.agric.gov.ab.ca

AWEIA

Alberta Women's Enterprise Initiative Association helps women in business: financing, coaching, resources, workshops, enterprise circles. Interested in seeing this group come to you in Parkland? Please contact: Karen Gingras at:

(780)422-7784 or
1-800-713-3558

A.F.S.C. CROP INSURANCE OPERATIONS . . .

Forage Insurance Application Deadline is February 29th, 2000.

For "what's new" with Forage Insurance in 2000 call Bette at (780) 963-0600.

WE'VE MOVED – ACROSS THE HALL

OPEN HOUSE

JANUARY 28: 9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.
Main Floor Provincial Building, Stony Plain
JOIN US FOR COFFEE AND DONUTS!

ALBERTA'S WATER ACT

The Act protects your water supply by providing two clearly defined categories of water use – the use of water for **household purposes** and the **traditional agriculture** use. The new category established for the traditional agriculture use under the Act applies to water used for raising animals or applying pesticides to crops up to a volume of 1.375 million gallons of water per year (about 3,835 gallons per day). If you were using water for these purposes on January 1, 1999, you are now able to apply for a registration of traditional agriculture water use. The registration will **protect your right to use water** by assigning you a priority number "grandfathered" back to the date when the water was first put to use. If you decide not to apply for a registration, you may continue the use of water, but such use will not be protected in case of water shortage. To obtain a registration, an application must be completed and filed with Alberta Environmental Protection by December 31, 2001.

Information required for the application includes the sources of water supply, the date the water source was first used for raising animals or applying pesticides, and the volume of water being used.

For futher informaton call either :
Alberta Environmental Protection Office (780) 963-6131 or
Alberta Agriculture Food & Rural Development Office (780)-963-6101

FCC SCA
Farm Credit Corporation Société du crédit agricole

PAYDAY LOAN

Do you have good cash flow from off-farm employment, but have been unable to save the down payment normally required to purchase land?

If you have a solid credit history, give us a call and we can discuss your financing needs.

PLEASE CALL OUR OFFICE FOR DETAILS:
CREDIT ADVISOR, GLEN SVENUNGARD
OR OFFICE ASSISTANT, BEV BADRY.
@ (780)963-6547

Layout *by Julie Balascak* CSR